



Project Overview

The Back River Restoration Group has worked together to mobilize a broad range of expertise and resources to restore aquatic environments and protect shorelines at the Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. Initiated through seed money provided by the Department of Defense's Legacy Program, several aspects of the effort, came together to ensure the successful partnership that is recognized by the President of the United States through the Coastal America Partnership Award. The collection of water quality data provided the critical information necessary to support the restoration of once historic underwater eelgrass beds.

Construction of a revetment demonstration project has stabilized a valuable shoreline. The installation of a permanent water quality monitoring system collects much needed data on this region of the Chesapeake Bay.



Coastal America Partnership Award

Presentation to

The Back River Restoration Team



A conservation oyster reef was constructed utilizing oyster shell as well as recycled porcelain materials and has now received almost 250,000 native seed oysters. Submerged reefs not only provide valuable habitat for the Chesapeake Bay, but also serve a role as force protection for the Langley Air Force Base.



The restoration projects at Langley Air Force Base also provided unique open water diving and planting opportunities to educate and involve local and regional volunteers.



School children from the City of Hampton benefit from the project through the valuable educational opportunities that the restoration projects provide.



Ceremony held in conjunction with the National Defense Industries Association Conference

Richmond, VA

April 8, 2003



Coastal America

Award Ceremony

The Coastal America Partnership was established in 1992 to protect, preserve and restore our coastal watersheds by integrating federal actions with state and local government and non-governmental efforts. The federal partners include the Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, State, Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Executive Office of the President. Through multi-agency teams, the partnership process enables national policy issues to be identified and resolved, regional plans and strategies to be developed, and local projects to be implemented.

Coastal America Partnership Awards

This award recognizes outstanding team efforts to protect and restore coastal resources working through collaborative partnerships with federal, state and local governments, non-profit organizations and private industry.

Nominations for projects are solicited annually and projects are selected for national recognition by the Principals Group composed of the Assistant Secretaries of the federal agencies in the Coastal America partnership.

Welcome
Dr. Vincent J. Ciccone, Chair of the Environment and Energy Division, NDIA

Introduction and Purpose of Ceremony
Ms. Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America

2002 Partnership Award:

Awarding Official

**Mr. Ray DuBois,
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations & Environment)**

Assisting Officials:

**Ms. Maureen T. Koetz,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the
Air Force (Environment, Safety, and
Occupational Health)**

Acceptance of the Team Award:

**Col Drew D. Jeter, Commander,
First Mission Support Group
Langley Air Force Base**

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Bob Murphy



**2002 Coastal America
Partnership Award Winners**

Other 2002 Partnership Award winners include: The Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project Team, Sanibel Island Restoration Management Team, and The Southern California Wetlands Restoration Project.